

2442(1) MAIDSTONE

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.



ANNUAL REPORT

for

1935

on the

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the

Medical Officer of Health.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Maidstone.

Maidstone:
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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1935.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year 1935.

Though at the beginning of the year the Borough was visited by an outbreak of diphtheria of greater severity than has been experienced for many years past, the health of the Town has, in general, been good. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is low, 10·3 as against 11·7 for the whole of England and Wales and an average in Maidstone for the past 10 years of 11·4, while the infantile death rate has fallen to the gratifyingly low figure of 39·7 per 1,000 live births.

There has been further progress in housing and in the building of houses by private enterprise there has been a welcome revival, while progress has been made with the raising of the standard of housing in the Borough, by the demolition or the improvement of unsatisfactory property.

There is nothing of a startling or spectacular nature in the Report which I now offer to you, but if it be true that "Happy is the country that has no history" it may also be agreed that "Healthy is the town that has nothing startling in the report of its Medical Officer."

I should like again to offer to the Corporation, to the Committees which are concerned with Public Health matters, to my colleagues of the Corporation Staff and to my fellow medical practitioners in the Borough, my sincere thanks for the help and encouragement I have received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN.

MAIDSTONE,

20th May, 1936.

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1935-1936.

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor F. J. SHRUBSOLE, J.P.)

Alderman H. G. TYRWHITT-DRAKE, J.P.

„ W. DAY, J.P.

„ A. T. EPPS, J.P.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

Councillor J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P. Councillor S. J. LYLE.

„ W. DAY.

„ P. WAKEFIELD.

Councillor T. HUNTER.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1935-1936.

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor F. J. SHRUBSOLE, J.P.)

Alderman H. G. TYRWHITT-DRAKE, J.P.

„ W. DAY, J.P.

„ A. T. EPPS, J.P.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

Councillor J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P. Councillor P. WAKEFIELD.

„ W. DAY.

Mrs. G. C. DEVAS.

„ T. HUNTER.

Mrs. R. HAYNES.

„ S. J. LYLE.

Miss MARJORIE HAYNES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

DORA F. ROSE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

W. A. N. Baker, M.C., A.R.S.I.,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

G. S. Adams, A.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Health Visitors.

Miss A. Snoddon—State Registration Certificate, General Nursing; State Registration Certificate, Sick Children's Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Miss M. B. Thomas—State Registration Certificate, General Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Miss E. M. Reid—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Public Analyst.

E. M. Hawkins, Canterbury, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Veterinary Officer.

C. Crowhurst, M.R.C.V.S.

Matron of Sanatorium.

Miss L. Bennett.

Clerks.

H. H. Moule.

S. V. Carr.

R. S. Yates (Appointed 9/12/35).

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—5,972 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1935—46,650.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1935) ACCORDING TO RATE
BOOKS, 12,050.

RATEABLE VALUE—£422,508.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—£1,660.

Social Conditions. In Maidstone, conditions have remained as noted in previous Reports and the Borough has been busy and prosperous, and is steadily growing in size and importance. The industries of paper-making, brewing and the manufacture of food products and confectionery have been very active, but the local engineering works have not been fully employed and the poor fruit season in 1935 was a serious blow to the recently established canning industry. Unemployment in this area, though it has been considerable, has not been the problem that it is in other parts of the country. Lack of employment in this district does not appear to have had an adverse effect on nutrition—of the children seen at routine medical inspection during the year, the classification according to nutritional standard shows none as “bad” and only 7·8% were recorded as “slightly sub-normal”—and the overcrowding and lack of housing accommodation which have been prevalent during the post-war years have had a more detrimental effect on health and physique among the children than actual unemployment.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	636	329	307
Illegitimate	19	8	11
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			14.0

STILLBIRTHS.	20	10	10
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			29.6

DEATHS	480	232	248
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			10.3

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	1	1.48
No. 30 other puerperal causes	1	1.48
Total	2	2.96

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	39.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	37.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	105.3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These have been described in previous reports, and the service available in the Borough, at the Kent County Laboratory has proved entirely satisfactory. It is a great advantage to Maidstone to have so complete and efficient a laboratory service on the spot.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The arrangements set out in previous reports remain unaltered and have continued to work efficiently and well. The service given to the Borough by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, deserves the grateful appreciation of the citizens.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

As I have been frequently asked what arrangements exist for nursing in the home in Maidstone, it is well that I should repeat here what facilities are in operation. Two nurses are attached to the West Kent General Hospital for duty as district nurses in the Borough area and their help is available for cases requiring attention at home, on request being made by the practitioner attending the case. Free transport for these nurses on the Corporation bus routes is allowed by the Council. The provision of these two nurses is the result of bequests made to the hospital for this purpose and in my opinion, the scheme whereby the hospital and the district nurses are thus linked together is a most excellent one and any further development of the district nursing service should be an extension of this arrangement.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare. No new Centres were opened during the year 1935, but the three existing Centres—at the Old Palace, at Mangravet and at Barning—have continued to work successfully. The Ante-Natal centre and the pre-school clinic are held at the Old Palace and are doing good work. The medical charge of these Centres is now taken by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Rose, and I am glad that the voluntary helpers, to whom much gratitude is due, have continued to assist in the working of the scheme.

(b) Tuberculosis. This is provided for in the tuberculosis scheme of the Kent County Council and the Dispensary in Maidstone, at Station Road, is widely used.

(c) Venereal Diseases Clinic. This is also provided by the Kent County Council and, for this area, the clinic at Chatham is used.

(d) School Clinics—Minor ailments. These clinics are established for the West Borough area, at 13, Tonbridge Road, for the South Borough district at South Borough School and for the North end of the town at the new North Borough School. The last named clinic has replaced the clinic formerly held at Wheeler Street. Thus each of the areas served by a Central School has a minor ailments clinic.

Dental Clinics. These also correspond to the areas served by the Central Schools, in the North, South and West parts of the Borough. The dental clinics have continued on the lines set out in former reports and I am glad, that, in order that the necessary extension and development of the work can be achieved, the Education Committee has decided on the appointment of a whole-time School Dental Surgeon.

Orthoptics and Orthopaedics. These clinics are held at the local hospitals and results of great value are obtained.

The report on the School Medical Service has already been published giving particulars of the work done at these clinics and details of the Infant Welfare work are set out below.

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1935.

No. of first visits paid to the homes of Infants	...	...	569
„ return „ „	...	...	1875
„ return „ „ Children	...	...	3364
„ first visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	80
„ return „ „	...	...	116
„ visits <i>re</i> removal, death of child, stillbirth, etc.	...	...	155
Attendances of Mothers at Old Palace	...	...	4225
„ Infants „	...	...	3319
„ Children „	...	...	2164
„ Mothers at Barming	...	...	1076
„ Infants „	...	...	778
„ Children „	...	...	800
„ Mothers at Mangravet	...	...	774
„ Infants „	...	...	315
„ Children „	...	...	621
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	101
„ Barming	...	...	50
„ Mangravet	...	...	51
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	53
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	150
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	318
Number of Health Talks given	...	...	5
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	2428
„ „ „ Barming	...	...	937
„ „ „ Mangravet	...	...	679
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	52.72		
„ Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	23.35
„ Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	..	...	31.56
„ Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	..	18.74
„ Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet	...	...	18.35
„ Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	13.31

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES (continued).

Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	397
" Infants " "	...	...	177
" Children " "	...	...	324
" Mothers " Barming	...	..	96
" Infants " "	...	...	39
" Children " "	...	...	83
" Mothers " Mangravet	...	...	46
" Infants " "	...	...	15
" Children " "	...	...	52
Pre-School Clinic Attendances (3-5 years of age)	...	...	85
Individual Children	...	...	31
Average Attendance	...	..	7.08
Cooking Classes held	...	...	12
Attendance of Mothers	...	...	198
Individual Mothers	...	...	18

HOSPITALS.

Details of the general and special hospitals in the district have been given in previous reports, and it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. During 1935, very full use of these hospitals has been made by the inhabitants of the Borough, while the County Hospital at Coxheath is also largely used. The Local Authority is directly responsible for the provision of the Infectious Diseases Hospital and for the Maternity Ward at the West Kent General Hospital. As regards the former, I have reported previously that this hospital is not satisfactory and that to make it adequate for the needs of the Borough, both as regards accommodation and equipment, it would be necessary to undertake considerable expenditure. An increase in the number of beds, the provision of cubicle wards and possibly of private wards, the enlargement of the nurses' quarters and the administrative block and the re-construction of kitchens and laundry are needed before this hospital can be considered sufficient in size and equipment for the needs of a borough of the size of Maidstone.

The Maternity Ward at the West Kent General Hospital, designed for only two beds, has always been inadequate to meet the demand for admission and I am glad to report that a much needed increase in the size of the Maternity Unit and the number of beds available will shortly be accomplished. The new Maternity Ward is to consist of a complete unit of 16 beds, with labour rooms, isolation ward and the requisite kitchen and bathrooms. Of this unit, one half is to be available for the Borough, under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme and the plan whereby this provision is being made in conjunction with the voluntary hospital, rather than by providing a separate municipal maternity home, is a most commendable linking-up of the public and voluntary services.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The number of midwives practising in the Borough is 16 and these are under the supervision of the County Medical Officer. They are not employed or subsidised by the Local Authority, but I am certainly of the opinion that it would be desirable that the same authority which is responsible in the Borough for maternity and child welfare work should also be the supervising authority for the midwives, especially if arrangements for the creation of a service of salaried midwives come into existence.

I give below the number of births in Maidstone and the maternal mortality rate for the past 7 years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Maternal deaths.	Maternal death rate.
1929	647	—	—
1930	680	2	2·94
1931	668	—	—
1932	665	2	3·01
1933	603	2	3·32
1934	654	4	6·11
1935	675	2	2·96

The average maternal death rate for the past 7 years is thus 2·62 and while this is not very high, it is more than it should be and the results for 1929 and 1931, when the maternal deaths were “nil,” is the standard we should desire to reach in every year.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

In the year under review, there has been no alteration or development of the institutional accommodation for mothers and children. Some use has been made of the sea-side institutions of the Public Assistance Committee in order to obtain convalescent treatment for children in need of a change of air, and the “Pre-school” clinic is slowly becoming more helpful in the care of toddlers and the prevention and early treatment of defects, but as I have already stated in the report on the School Medical Service for 1935, the provision of nursery schools for those children whose mothers have to go to work and who are therefore left to the care of neighbours or strangers, is very desirable and so far, any such provision is wanting in Maidstone.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The number of nurses employed on visiting work in the Borough is 3 and I am glad to report that the plan which was adopted of combining the duties of the Health Visitors and School Nurses has proved most successful and the result has been a saving of time, avoidance of overlapping and an increase in the amount of work possible and in the interest and variety of the work for the nurses.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Each of the Nurses employed by the Corporation as Health Visitors also undertakes duty as a Visitor under the Children Act and in the area of the Borough for which she acts as Health Visitor and School Nurse, also visits the boarded-out children. The result of this arrangement has been to obtain more satisfactory supervision of the foster-mothers and boarded-out children, and a correlation of the care of these foster-children with the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The details of the administration of Part I. of the Children Act, 1908, are tabulated below.

Administration of Part I. of the Children Act, 1908.

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year	31
(b) Number of children on the Register:—	
(i.) at the end of the year	36
(ii.) who died during the year	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year...	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were:—	
(i.) Health Visitors... ..	3
(ii.) Female, other than Health Visitors	1 School Nurse.
(iii.) Male	—
(d) Number of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Visitors under (c) above) or societies authorised to visit under the proviso to Section 2 (2) of the Act of 1908	—
(e) Proceedings taken during the year:—	
No. of Cases.	Act and Section under which proceeding were taken.
1	Part 1 Sec. 1 Children Act, 1908.
(f) Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year:—	
(i.) Under (a) of Section 3 of the Act of 1908 ...	—
(ii.) „ (b) „ „ „ ...	—
(iii.) „ (c) „ „ „ ...	—
(g) Number of orders obtained during the year under Section 67 of the Act of 1932:—	
(i.) from a court of summary jurisdiction	—
(ii.) from a single justice	—

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

In Maidstone, the provision for treatment of orthopædic cases is at the West Kent General Hospital, where this department is under the care of Mr. Alan Todd, M.S., F.R.C.S. Cases from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and from the School Medical Department are referred to the hospital and the School Nurse attends at the Orthopædic Clinic, with the cases referred. During 1935, the following cases have received treatment :—

Old infantile paralysis	3
Talipes	2
Knock-knee	1
Bow-legs	3
Deformities of feet	7
Tuberculous, bones and joints ...	1
Sundry fractures... ..	1
Scoliosis	3
Torticollis... ..	3
Various conditions	16
	<hr/>
	40
	<hr/>

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The public water supply to the Borough of Maidstone is furnished by the Maidstone Waterworks Company, from its various sources of supply. These consist of springs and deep wells, from which the water is pumped to reservoirs and tanks for distribution. During 1935, the supply has been satisfactory and constant and restriction of the supply was not necessary at any time. Regular chemical analyses of the water from the different sources are made and the detailed findings are set out in the Tables at the end of this Report and a summary of the results, which are stated in grains per gallon, is given below.

The gathering grounds, springs and reservoirs are regularly and constantly patrolled by the employees of the Water Company. During the year, inspections of the sources, reservoirs and pumping stations were made by myself, in company with the Company's Engineer and the Consulting Bacteriologist, Professor Eyre. At each inspection, the works, including the pumping stations and storage reservoirs were found to be in a most commendable state.

Regular bacteriological examinations of the water from the various sources of supply have been made and a summary of the results of these examinations will be found at the end of the report. These results have been very satisfactory. The source at Ewell, taken from a spring, was again used to supplement the supply during the summer months and for extra security this water is chlorinated before being added to the water from the other sources in the reservoir. In the summary of the bacteriological examinations, it will be noted that analyses have been made of this water, both before chlorination and after chlorine has been added and it will be seen that the process of chlorination is but an added precaution to make assurance doubly sure.

The borings for the projected new source of supply at Boxley are well in progress and before long this supply will be available and should ensure an ample supply for the town. There have been some complaints of a discolored sediment in the water in some parts of the town at times which is due to the presence of iron in the water drawn from an existing well and when the new supply from Boxley is available, it is hoped that this cause of complaint will be removed.

Average results, 1935.	BOARLEY.	COSSINGTON.	FORSTAL.	EWELL.
Total Solid Residue	24.0	21.4	37.3	30.2
Chlorine	1.42	1.18	2.32	1.84
Nitrogen (Nitric)	0.38	0.14	0.19	0.24
Nitrogen (Nitrous)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0003
Ammoniacal Ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iron	0.001	0.001	0.00	0.001
Oxygen absorbed ($\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 27° C.)	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.005
" " (4 hours at 27° C.)	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.007
Total Hardness	16.7	16.2	26.5	23.3

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The provision for drainage and disposal of sewage has been described in previous reports. During 1935, extensions of the town sewers, totalling in length approximately 8,800 feet, were made to serve some of the areas recently added to the Borough, in the Loose district, in Huntsman's Lane and in the Ashford Road.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In my previous reports, I have called attention to the pollution which is found in the river Medway, both above the town and in the Borough area. I again urge that it is most desirable that this pollution should be abated and that the discharge of trade waste and sewage into the river is a deplorable misuse of what should be one of the cherished glories of the town. The industrial firms on the banks of the river have again affirmed their anxiety to diminish the nuisance caused by the discharge of trade waste but in a river which is controlled by locks and the natural flow thereby diminished, it is essential that the pollution of the river from this cause should be abolished.

The polluted state of the river Len was again a source of complaint in the summer of 1935 and the cleansing of this stream and the ponds through which it passes on its way to the Medway, is a matter which calls for action. Unfortunately the securing of this much-needed improvement has presented very great difficulties and while, with the co-operation of the manufacturing firms on the course of the stream, some lessening of the pollution has been effected, the state of the Len is still very far from satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The approximate number of premises which are equipped with each type of sanitary convenience is as follows:—

W.C's into sewer system	...	...	...	11,633
W.C's into cesspools	...	...	...	242
Earth closets or privy middens	...	...	...	104
Pail closets	...	...	...	96

The greater number of houses in the last three classes are in the area recently added to the Borough and it is hoped that a proportion of these will shortly be altered to connect with the sewers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The arrangements for scavenging and the disposal of refuse are the same as outlined in previous reports and the incineration plant has worked satisfactorily and without nuisance.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I give below a tabular statement of the number of inspections of factories and work-shops, showing the number of defects found, the action taken and the result.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries).	49	1	—
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	72	4	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	10	—	—
TOTAL.....	131	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : *				
Want of Cleanliness	20	20	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary				
Accommo- { Insufficient	3	3	—	—
dation. { Unsuitable or Defective ..	2	2	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the out- work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL.....	25	25	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.

The following premises which are subject to control by Bye-Laws and Regulations are found in the Borough:—

Common Lodging Houses	7
Slaughter Houses	16
Houses let in Lodgings	4
Cowsheds	10
Dairies and Milkshops	34

The common lodging houses and the houses let in lodgings have been the source of some difficulty in the past year. There is always a migrant population in this district and I again suggest the desirability of a municipal lodging house. The slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and the dairies and milk-shops are closely supervised.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year, factory chimneys, have been kept under observation at various times, with the object of securing a diminution in the amount of black smoke discharged. Where necessary, the management of the factories have been notified of the amount of smoke which was being discharged and invariably I have found that these firms are most anxious to take every possible precaution to prevent and mitigate possible nuisance.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are four premises in the Borough where rag flock is used and these are inspected regularly.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

I give below, in tabular form, the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	31
Bakehouse inspections.....	45
Chimneys repaired	55
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided.....	12
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	24
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections	63
Common Lodging House inspections	32
Coppers repaired	27
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	2827
.. choked and cleansed	481
.. tested with smoke	40
.. " " water.....	25
.. inspection chambers provided	68
.. " " " airtight covers provided	89
Stoneware drains laid	3065' 6"
Iron drains laid	327'
Drains trapped from sewer and ventilated	2
Dustbins provided.....	65
Factory, workshop, workplace and outworkers' premises inspected	151
Fresh air inlets provided.....	21
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars.....	6
.. floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	77
.. shooting or guttering repaired or renewed	101
.. roofs repaired.....	132
.. No. of rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered.....	275
.. walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method	37
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases.....	117
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	359
.. of work in progress	1990
Miscellaneous defects remedied	97
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	14
Overcrowding abated	30
Poultry or animals removed	3
Schools inspected	10
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped	28
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	21
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	755
Stairs repaired	69
Strainers provided to gullies	33
Tippers repaired, renewed or cleansed	—
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired	88
.. additional, provided	5
.. flushing apparatus provided or repaired	25
.. new pans and traps provided	27
.. structural defects remedied	14
Water supplies provided.....	7
Window frames repaired.....	115
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and cords renewed	220
Vermineous rooms cleansed	222
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	31
Grates renewed or repaired.....	19
Brickwork joints repaired	280
Drains reconstructed	49
Stoneware gullies provided.....	33
Preliminary Notices served	216
Statutory Notices served.....	121

Shops.

During the year 1935, there was no legal action taken under the Shops Act, 1934, with the regard to the provision of sanitary conveniences. One licence was issued exempting premises used as an eating house from the provisions of sub-section 2 of section 10 of this Act.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The swimming baths open to the public in the Borough consist of the Public Baths provided by the Corporation, at which there are two covered baths. These are very largely used and arrangements are made by the Education Committee for the use of these baths by the elementary school children and for instruction in swimming. A new plant, for the constant purification of the water, by filtration and by the addition of chlorine, has been installed and has given satisfactory results. The state of the water in the baths is checked by bacteriological examination of samples.

Schools.

There are 18 Public Elementary Schools or Departments in the Borough and in the year 1935, the school population was 5,156, which is slightly below the figure for 1934.

As has been noted in previous reports, the newer school buildings in Maidstone are of an excellent type and compare favourably with any Public Elementary Schools in the country. The older schools are gradually being replaced or improved to bring them into accord with the modern school premises. The new school in the North Ward, which was built by the Education Committee to replace St. Paul's Mixed School, was opened during the year and this school with its airy and capacious class-rooms and ample playing fields, is a vast improvement on the old premises which were dilapidated and almost dangerous. St. Michael's School has also been improved by the repair of the structure and the re-construction of the sanitary arrangements. Further improvement or replacement of the older schools will be necessary until all the schools in the Borough reach the high standard which the Education Committee has set itself.

All the schools in the Borough have a water supply from the mains of the Maidstone Water Company and all are connected with the town sewers, with the exception of Willington School, which is fitted with chemical closets, while the Caldicott Community School at Mote House is drained into a cess-pool.

Overcrowding in the schools has been less than in former years, but the accommodation at Willington School has been strained to the utmost and the provision of the proposed new school to replace these premises is very necessary.

School closure on account of infectious disease was not necessary during 1935 and has not been required for some years. During the year there was a certain amount of scarlet fever in the Borough—38 cases of which 22 were children of school age. This figure is below that for 1934, when 49 cases among school children were recorded. At the close of 1934, the Borough was suffering from a severe outbreak of diphtheria and this continued in the early months of 1935. 77 cases in all were notified in the year, of which 45 were children of school age and I regret to record that there were 3 deaths, one of a child below school age and two between the ages of 5 and 10. I am certain that school closure is hindrance rather than a help in coping with such an outbreak and that the spread of infectious disease is accelerated if the schools are closed, while the swabbing and tracing of contacts and mild cases is assisted by the fact that the children are in school and can be seen and examined.

In previous reports I have mentioned the need for the new premises for the Girls' Grammar School and I am glad to know that there is more definite prospect of this need being supplied.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The inspection and re-conditioning of the unfit houses in the Borough has proceeded during the year and 235 defective dwelling-houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers while 16 were rendered fit after the service of formal notices, under the Housing Act 1930, and defects were remedied in 125 cases after service of notices under the Public Health Acts. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 25 houses, under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

NEW HOUSES.

During 1935, there were in all 361 new houses erected in the Borough area, of which 115 were built by the Corporation.

The problem of overcrowding is one which has existed for some time and during the year under review 39 cases of overcrowding were discovered. In 30 cases, the overcrowding was dealt with by the allocation to the family of a Council house, one overcrowded family removed to another house and in 3 cases, the household removed from the town.

The problem of overcrowding has always been a difficult one and I welcome the regulations governing this question and determining the capacity of a house. At the time of writing the report, the survey of overcrowding is in progress and reveals a state of affairs which we had long suspected but which is not so severe as had been feared. The new standards and definition of what constitutes overcrowding will be an enormous help, as the question as to whether a house is overcrowded will no longer be a matter of opinion but of determinable fact. When the survey is completed, I hope that action to remove the overcrowding found will follow, but continuous re-inspection and supervision will be necessary after the initial correction of the existing overcrowding is completed, to ensure that such does not arise again and that the regulations do not lapse into ineffectiveness.

The following statistical table dealing with housing has been prepared in accordance with the instructions set out in Circular 1492, dated 18th October, 1935, of the Ministry of Health, in the form required.

Housing Statistics.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	323
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	323
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-section (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	23
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	23
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	249

II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	235
--	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17, 18 AND 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	27
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	127
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	125
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 19 AND 21 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

The cowsheds in the Borough area are 10 in number and the dairies and milkshops total 34. These are inspected regularly and are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. During 1935, 68 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors and additional visits were paid by myself, while 55 samples of milk were taken for examination. Samples of the milk supplied to the children in the Elementary Schools are also taken for bacteriological analysis.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total number of slaughter-houses in the Borough is 16, of which 12 are registered and 4 are licensed. These slaughter-houses are visited frequently for inspection as to cleanliness, etc., and they are also under constant supervision when they are visited during the progress of slaughtering, for the inspection of meat. During the year, there were 755 inspections of the slaughter-houses, but with this large number of premises used for slaughtering, practically all of which are in use at the same time, and with the help of only two Inspectors, it is impossible to secure that all the meat slaughtered in the Borough shall be inspected. Again I urge that one of the pressing needs in Maidstone is for a public abattoir, where all carcasses killed in the Borough and intended for food, could be inspected.

During the year, considerable quantities of food of various kinds were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, which was surrendered and destroyed, included the following:—

Tinned foods, etc.	30 tons, 6 cwt., 3 qrs., 16½ lbs.
Beef	16 cwt., 3 qrs., 26 lbs.
20 hams	7 cwt., 0 qrs., 6 lbs.
4 Pigs	8 cwt., 0 qrs., 23 lbs.
30 Rabbits.	
40 Pears.	
Lamb	3 qrs., 10 lbs.
Mutton	2 qrs., 2 lbs.
3 Chicken.	
Lambs' livers ...	2 qrs. 4 lbs.
1 box of skate.	
20 Pig's heads.	
2 beast's heads and 1 tongue	

ADULTERATION Etc.

Samples of the various articles as shown in the following list were obtained and examined with the results as given below :—

Article.	Number.	Number Genuine.
New Milk	55	52
Butter	4	4
Lard Substitute	1	1
Lard	5	5
Margarine	5	5
Sausages	2	2
Certified Milk	11	11
Egg Substitute	1	1
Pepper... .. .	1	1
Ground Ginger	1	1
Whisky	3	3
Brandy	1	1
Gin	1	1
Breadcrumbs	1	1
	92	89

PROSECUTIONS.

During the year three prosecutions were ordered by the Council. In the first case the defendants were prosecuted for exposing unsound meat for sale and were fined £4 0s. 0d. (£1 for each article). A milk retailer was prosecuted for selling milk containing 5% of added water and was fined £2 0s. 0d. The third case was one in which a person was prosecuted for keeping swine so as to be a nuisance and the defendant was fined 10/- and ordered to remove the manure more frequently.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The chemical analysis of food samples is carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. E. M. Hawkins, F.I.C., F.C.S., Canterbury, and the bacteriological examinations required are made at the Kent County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

NUTRITION—DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE.

During the year, a series of lectures and demonstrations on nutrition and cookery, especially for infants and young children, was arranged for the Mothers attending the Infant Welfare Centres.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

During 1935, the general health of the inhabitants of Maidstone was good, though the outbreak of diphtheria which was noted in last year's report as occurring at the end of the year, continued into the beginning of 1935 and for the early months of that year.

The incidence of scarlet fever was less than it has been for some time and the cases were all of a mild type and no deaths were recorded. There were 33 cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital while 5 cases were isolated in their homes, making a total of 38 cases, as against 72 cases in 1934 and 133 in 1933.

The diphtheria cases numbered 77, mostly arising in the early months of the year as noted above, and all these cases were admitted to hospital. Again it has to be mentioned that the list of cases notified in the Borough is increased by the fact that cases are sent in from other parts of the County, to the West Kent Hospital and to the County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital and thence transferred to the Borough Isolation Hospital. This causes an increase in the incidence figures of infectious disease in the Borough, is an unfair strain on the accommodation provided for the town and a charge on the rates for the treatment of these cases, which to my mind is unjustifiable.

I regret to record three deaths from diphtheria and again I must state plainly that there is no justification for delay in the administration of anti-toxin. Supplies of anti-toxin for the medical practitioners in the town are available at the Isolation Hospital, at the Health Department office and at the Police Station and again I urge that it is neither necessary nor desirable in a suspicious case, to wait for laboratory diagnosis, but that the serum should be used without delay.

Non-notifiable diseases were not of any especial severity, though there was a certain amount of mumps, chicken-pox, measles and epidemic colds, which at times caused low attendances at the schools. School closure on account of epidemic sickness has not been necessary.

The Isolation Hospital is still not adequate for the needs of the Borough and the design and lay-out of the buildings make it impossible to use the available space to the best advantage. There has been a suggestion from the County Council, following the procedure in the Local Government Act, 1929, that hospital accommodation for infectious diseases in the Borough of Maidstone and in the adjacent Rural Districts, would be best provided by an amalgamation of the existing hospitals into one institution—the Maidstone Rural District Hospital at Loose being proposed as the most suitable. This plan has certain advantages; it might be more economical and certainly it would be easier to staff one larger hospital than a series of small Isolation Hospitals, but neither the Borough Health Committee nor the Rural District Councils concerned have received the suggestion with favour and there are grave drawbacks of site, distance and cost of administration which are inseparable from an institution serving a combination of areas. But I urge that whether this plan is adopted or abandoned, a definite decision as to the future of the Borough Isolation Hospital is required and if and when the decision is made that it is to be retained for the Borough, it will be necessary to embark on a programme of re-construction and addition, in order that it may adequately supply the need for isolation hospital accommodation. At present, only scarlet fever and diphtheria cases can be admitted, complicated cases of measles, erysipelas, etc., can only be sent to the County Hospital at Coxheath or to more distant County Hospitals; there is no space in the Isolation Hospital for puerperal fever cases, while the fevers of the enteric group are admitted to the West Kent General Hospital, which is not desirable. Cubicle wards are required and I hope that private wards would also be made available; and the re-construction of the kitchen and laundry with enlargement of the administrative block and the nurses quarters will be necessary. Space is available on the site for these extension, but it is necessary that the doubt which exists as to the future fate of the hospital should be removed, before the Corporation would be justified in undertaking the re-construction and extension which is needful. The scheme proposed, under which cases of small-pox from a number of authorities, including the Maidstone Corporation, will be received at the Small-pox Hospital belonging to the Hollingbourn Rural District Council, has been accepted, but there have fortunately been no such cases in the Borough.

School notifications of infectious and other diseases are sent to me by the Head Teachers of the schools and these notifications are of very great assistance in the investigation of cases and the discovery of possible contacts. This is particularly true of the non-notifiable diseases, such as measles and chicken-pox where these school notifications are often the only channel of information.

Infectious Diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases made during the year were as follows :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	38	33	—
Diphtheria	77	77	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	4	4	1
Pneumonia	21	4	22
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	5	1
Erysipelas... ..	19	14	1
Encephalitis Lethargica...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Totals	166	139	28

During 1935, a beginning was made with the artificial immunisation of school children against diphtheria. Since the immunisation clinics were started in the early part of the year, up to the end of December, 863 children have attended. Of these, 45 were found to be negative to the Schick test for susceptibility and the others including 182 children in whom the preliminary Schick test was not necessary, were treated with immunising serum. Of these 818 children, 698 had completed the course of immunising injections at the end of the year and 328 had had a further Schick test after a lapse of 3 months. 39 children did not complete the course—6 because they left school before completion and 33, after beginning the course, refused further injections.

There were no serious reactions after immunising injections, in 13 cases there was slight local reaction which cleared up rapidly and one or two children complained of headache.

There has been a gratifying readiness on the part of the parents to have this process of immunisation against diphtheria carried out and indeed the opportunity of protection against a disease which is known and feared in Maidstone has been welcomed and asked for by many of the parents. I am of opinion that it would be best if the immunisation of the children could be carried out before the start of school life and I hope that it will be possible to arrange this through the Pre-school clinic and the Welfare Centres.

DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for the disinfection of and cleansing of verminous persons and infected or infested articles or premises, which were outlined in previous reports, have continued to work satisfactorily. During 1935, disinfection of 167 rooms and 2,887 articles was carried out. The household effects in 31 cases where the families were being transferred from verminous premises to Corporation houses, were disinfected with hydrogen cyanide.

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

This service is provided by the County Laboratory and is a great advantage to the Borough and the County. I should again like to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Laboratory, especially in the prompt examination of swabs from contacts of diphtheria cases. The details of the specimens from the Borough area which have been examined at the Laboratory is as under :—

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	99	1222	1321
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	48	235	283
Enteric Fever	5	10	15
Various	—	3	3
	152	1470	1622

CANCER.

The table of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone for the past 7 years is as follows :—

	number of deaths
1929	67
1930	53
1931	64
1932	70
1933	59
1934	69
1935	66

It will be observed that the number of deaths from malignant disease remains fairly constant and there is no information available as to the incidence of cancer at any particular age or in any particular occupation. At the West Kent General Hospital, the branch of the National Radium Centres is continuing to work in close co-operation with the special hospitals for malignant disease and for the spread of information a panel of lecturers is to be formed for which the M.O.H. is to act as local secretary.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

During 1935, one case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified :—

Cases.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	—	1	1	—	—	—

The Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital is available for the treatment of injuries to, or diseases of the eyes in Maidstone and the case of ophthalmia recorded above was treated in hospital, with a successful result.

Tuberculosis.

No action was required during 1935 in regard to any employee in the milk trade, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor for the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to hospital, under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1935.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
15	5	7	1	1	1	5	1	—
25	5	6	—	1	6	8	—	—
35	7	6	—	—	5	3	—	—
45	1	1	1	—	5	4	1	—
55	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—
Totals ...	18	23	5	4	18	23	4	1

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 37. The number which had not been notified was 9.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus .20 to 1.

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	6	—	13	9	2	5	2	1	—	38
Diphtheria	—	—	—	4	4	19	26	11	8	3	2	—	77
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	2	3	4	6	1	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	6	6	19
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals.....	1	—	—	11	5	35	36	15	24	16	16	7	166

Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	2	2	8	4	22
Puerperal Sepsis	1	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Totals.....	1	3	2	1	...	3	...	...	5	2	8	4	29

TABLE I.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
All Causes	...	...	...	..	...	...	232	248
1	Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...	...	..	...	1	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	..	1	2
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	..	..	...	...	18	23
10	Other Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	..	4	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	General paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	28	38
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	..	1	4
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	8	10
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	..	54	52
17	Aneurysm	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	14	27
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	12	9
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	13	9
21	Other Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
22	Peptic Uleer...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	..	...	...	...	2	1
26	Other liver diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
28	Nephritis	...	..	...	...	...	15	4
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
31	Congenital causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	14	5
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	4	19
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
34	Other Violence	..	...	..	...	...	9	5
35	Other defined causes	..	...	...	...	...	14	20
36	Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).								
	Small-pox	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
	Polionyelitis	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE II.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1935. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS
AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	...	...	...	...	12	1	1	1	15	6	3	2	--	26
Small-pox	...	...	..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Premature birth	...	...	..	...	6	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	1	3	2	1	—	—	6
Other Causes	..	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	6
Nett Live Births in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	...	636	
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	..	..	19	
Nett Deaths in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	...	24	
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	...	2	

TABLE III.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1935.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Block, West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	2
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	86
(4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by— (a) Midwives (b) Doctors	75 11
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Daily visits by the Medical Officer.
(7) Number of cases notified as— (a) Puerperal Fever (b) „ Pyrexia*	1 2
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	Nil.
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	4
(10) (a) Number of cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum (b) Result of treatment in each case	1 Cleared in 36 hours.
(11) (a) Number of Maternal deaths (b) Causes of death in each case	Nil. —
(12) (a) Number of Infant Deaths— (i.) Stillborn (ii.) within 10 days of birth (b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable)	9 4 (1) Congenital Heart. (2) Cerebral Hemorrhage. (3) Perforation of duodenum. (4) Maldevelopment.

* i.e. rise of temperature to 100·4° F. for 24 hours or its recurrence within that period.

TABLE IVa.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.
Cossington and Forstal (Mixed) Water Supply
(1 Sample).

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C. | 11 |
| 2. | Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C. | 1 |
| 3. | MICROBES OF INDICATION : | |
| | B. coli..... | absent from 100 c.c. |
| | Streptococci | absent from 100 c.c. |
| | " M " Bacillus | present in 50 c.c. |

TABLE IVb.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.
Cossington Supply.
(2 Samples).

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C. | 6 |
| 2. | Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C. | 6 |
| 3. | MICROBES OF INDICATION : | |
| | B. coli..... | absent from 100 c.c. |
| | Streptococci | absent from 100 c.c. |
| | " M " Bacillus | present in 50 c.c. |

TABLE IVc.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Forstal Supply.**

(4 Samples).

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimeter living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

3

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

2

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci absent from 100 c.c.

" M " Bacillus absent from 100 c.c.

TABLE V.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Boarley Supply.**

(2 Samples).

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

7

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

1

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci absent from 100 c.c.

" M " Bacillus present in 50 c.c.

TABLE VIa.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Ewell Supply (before Chlorination).****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

9

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

16

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococciabsent from 100 c.c.

" M " Bacilluspresent in 2 c.c.

TABLE VIb.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Ewell Supply (chlorinated).****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

7

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

3

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococciabsent from 100 c.c.

" M " Bacillusabsent from 100 c.c.

TABLE VII.
Forstal Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
19.1.35.	0.00	0.00	36.8	2.35	.003	.007	.18	0.00	25.9	0.00
19.2.35.	0.00	0.00	37.3	2.42	.002	.002	.25	0.00	27.1	0.00
15.3.35.	0.00	0.00	38.4	2.20	.003	.004	.11	0.00	28.0	0.00
13.4.35.	0.00	0.00	37.1	2.38	.002	.003	.21	0.00	27.5	0.00
13.5.35.	0.00	0.00	36.8	2.34	.0007	.001	.14	0.00	25.7	0.00
7.6.35.	0.00	0.00	37.5	2.30	.011	.014	.25	0.00	26.6	0.00
6.7.35.	0.00	0.00	37.5	2.40	.001	.008	.21	0.00	26.6	0.00
2.8.35.	0.00	0.00	36.6	2.40	.008	.010	.35	0.00	27.5	0.00
31.8.35.	0.00	0.00	37.6	2.30	.007	.013	.20	0.00	26.6	0.00
30.9.35.	0.00	0.00	37.5	2.34	.006	.008	.21	0.00	27.1	0.00
25.10.35.	0.00	0.00	37.5	2.24	.007	.009	.07	0.00	25.2	0.00
30.11.35.	0.00	0.00	37.4	2.24	.003	.004	.14	0.00	24.2	0.00
Mean results for 1935.	0.00	0.00	37.3	2.33	.004	.007	.19	0.00	26.5	0.00

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VIII.
Cossington Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
19.1.35.	0.00	0.00	21.3	1.10	.001	.005	.18	0.00	16.5	.01
19.2.35.	0.00	0.00	21.3	1.15	.003	.004	.10	0.00	17.1	.00
15.3.35.	0.00	0.00	21.6	1.26	.003	.005	.18	0.00	17.1	.00
13.4.35.	0.00	0.00	21.7	1.33	.003	.004	.18	0.00	17.1	.00
13.5.35.	0.00	0.00	21.3	1.30	.0007	.004	.15	0.00	16.8	.00
7.6.35.	0.00	0.00	21.5	1.20	.006	.014	.10	0.00	16.2	.00
6.7.35.	0.00	0.00	21.4	1.20	.004	.012	.21	0.00	15.7	.00
2.8.35.	0.00	0.00	21.0	1.20	.014	.016	.14	0.00	16.8	.00
31.8.35.	0.00	0.00	21.5	1.15	.005	.011	.13	0.00	16.2	.00
30.9.35.	0.00	0.00	21.1	1.12	.005	.008	.11	0.00	15.9	.00
25.10.35.	0.00	0.00	21.1	1.12	.002	.009	.11	0.00	14.0	.00
29.11.35.	0.00	0.00	21.5	1.05	.003	.003	.21	0.00	14.3	.00
Mean results for 1935.	0.00	0.00	21.4	1.18	.004	.008	.15	0.00	16.1	.001

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE IX.
Boarley Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
19.1.35.	0.00	0.00	23.9	1.45	.002	.005	.47	0.00	17.1	.01
19.2.35.	0.00	0.00	23.9	1.50	.0007	.002	.35	0.00	17.6	.00
15.3.35.	0.00	0.00	24.4	1.44	.005	.008	.46	0.00	18.5	.00
13.4.35.	0.00	0.00	23.9	1.44	.003	.004	.58	0.00	18.5	.00
13.5.35.	0.00	0.00	23.8	1.40	.002	.005	.57	0.00	17.4	.00
7.6.35.	0.00	0.00	24.0	1.40	.006	.010	.47	0.00	16.0	.00
6.7.35.	0.00	0.00	25.1	1.40	.003	.012	.35	0.00	16.5	.00
2.8.35.	0.00	0.00	23.6	1.40	.008	.011	.23	0.00	16.8	.00
31.8.35.	0.00	0.00	24.4	1.35	.008	.013	.21	0.00	16.5	.00
30.9.35.	0.00	0.00	23.9	1.43	.006	.012	.28	0.00	16.4	.00
25.10.35.	0.00	0.00	24.1	1.40	.003	.008	.28	0.00	15.4	.00
29.11.35.	0.00	0.00	24.0	1.40	.003	.004	.28	0.00	14.0	.00
Mean results for 1935.	0.00	0.00	24.1	1.42	.004	.008	.38	0.00	16.2	.001

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE X.
Ewell Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
19.1.35.	0.00	0.00	29.5	1.90	.0007	.006	.25	0.00	21.4	.01
19.2.35.	0.00	0.00	31.2	1.22	.001	.004	.21	0.003	23.8	.00
15.3.35.	0.00	0.00	30.6	1.93	.008	.010	.35	0.00	23.3	.00
13.4.35.	0.00	0.00	28.8	1.89	.003	.004	.35	0.00	23.3	.00
13.5.35.	0.00	0.00	31.6	1.89	.0007	.003	.31	0.00	24.3	.00
7.6.35.	0.00	0.00	30.7	1.90	.008	.014	.35	0.00	24.7	.00
6.7.35.	0.00	0.00	30.9	2.00	.003	.008	.19	0.00	23.8	.00
2.8.35.	0.00	0.00	28.4	2.00	.012	.014	.14	0.00	23.1	.00
31.8.35.	0.00	0.00	28.8	1.85	.006	.009	.11	0.00	23.3	.00
30.9.35.	0.00	0.00	29.7	1.89	.003	.006	.11	0.00	23.8	.00
25.10.35.	0.00	0.00	32.6	1.89	.002	.001	.21	0.00	21.9	.00
Mean results for 1935.	0.00	0.00	30.3	1.85	.004	.007	.23	0.0003	23.3	.001

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE XI.

Vital Statistics for 1935 and previous years.

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	Averages for 10 years	1935
Death-Rate ...	9.5	11.2	12.3	10.6	12.6	11.7	11.2	12.2	11.5	10.7	11.4	10.3
Birth-Rate ...	15.9	15.7	15.1	15.9	15.9	16.1	15.2	14.8	13.7	13.8	15.2	14.0
Infant Mortality Rate	62	51	39	40	50	58	47	51	31	38	47	40
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.68	.82	.74	.59	.81	.96	.76	.63	.96	.70	.77	.88
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.15	.19	.25	.17	.20	.25	.17	.21	.09	.20	.19	.11
Diphtheria ...	.03	—	.02	.02	.07	—	.07	.07	.05	.09	.04	.06
Scarlet Fever ...	.03	—	.05	.07	—	—	—	—	.02	.04	.02	—

TABLE XII.

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1935.

(The rates of England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1935, but those for London and the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1934. The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population, but for London, Maidstone and the towns to civilians only).

	Rate per 1,000 population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths under one year.	
England and Wales	14·7	0·62	11·7	0·00	—	0·03	0·01	0·04	0·08	0·18	0·52	5·7	57	
21 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14·8	0·68	11·8	0·00	—	0·04	0·01	0·04	0·09	0·16	0·45	7·9	62	
40 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	14·8	0·64	11·2	0·00	—	0·03	0·01	0·03	0·07	0·17	0·41	3·8	55	
London	13·3	0·52	11·4	0·00	—	0·00	0·01	0·04	0·06	0·11	0·51	11·2	58	
Maidstone	14·0	0·43	10·3	0·02	—	—	—	—	0·06	0·11	0·28	0·02	40	

The maternal mortality rates are as follows:—

		Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
per 1,000	{ England and Wales	1·68	2·42	4·10
Live Births.	{ Maidstone	1·53	1·53	3·06
per 1,000	{ England and Wales	1·61	2·32	3·93
Total Births.	{ Maidstone	1·48	1·48	2·96

TABLE XIII.

**List of Rooms and Articles Disinfected
during 1935.**

Month.	Blankets.	Sheets.	Counterpanes.	Mattresses.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Curtains.	Bed-chair Cushions.	Beds.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.	Rooms.
January ...	81	54	29	44	52	19	66	—	12	236	593	43
February ...	29	26	9	15	19	10	33	3	8	92	244	16
March ...	31	27	14	19	26	14	30	2	12	137	312	19
April ...	27	24	13	17	19	13	28	—	12	101	254	12
May ...	25	28	6	14	21	6	16	—	6	82	204	10
June ...	8	8	2	3	4	3	9	—	2	25	64	3
July ...	65	19	8	55	54	28	18	—	25	75	347	8
August ...	50	42	13	47	30	13	32	—	15	101	343	20
September	10	11	4	10	6	4	6	—	4	28	83	4
October ...	34	30	10	21	23	12	28	—	8	84	250	14
November...	10	9	3	6	10	4	8	—	4	31	85	14
December...	10	13	4	16	18	4	10	—	5	29	109	4
Totals ...	380	291	115	267	282	130	284	5	113	1021	2887	167

METEOROLOGY.

The detail of meteorological observations is set forth in Table XIV.

The mean reading of the barometer for the year is 29·61, the highest monthly mean being for January 29·98, and the lowest for April 29·38.

The hottest month was July, giving a mean of the maximum readings of the thermometer in the shade of 76°, and the mean of the minimum readings of 54°, while the coldest month was December, with a mean of the maximum readings of 40° and a mean of the minimum readings of 32°.

The prevailing winds were S.W., there being 113 days on which the wind was in this quarter.

The total rain-fall for the year was 30·61 inches, the heaviest amount falling in November, viz., 5·08 inches, while in March the amount registered was only ·17 inches, this being the driest month of the year.

There were 194 days in the year on which ·01 of an inch or more rain fell.

TABLE XIV.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGY 1935, RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.
(Taken Daily at 9 a.m.)

MONTH.	RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.							
	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ...	3	1	16	1	3	4	2	1
February ...	1	2	2	—	1	12	2	8
March ...	1	3	6	4	4	8	3	2
April ...	2	3	7	1	3	11	—	3
May ...	5	11	2	1	5	2	4	1
June ...	—	—	—	6	3	16	4	1
July ...	—	4	5	1	4	7	4	6
August ...	1	2	2	2	7	11	3	3
September ...	—	2	1	5	4	14	1	3
October ...	1	1	3	4	5	11	—	6
November ...	—	—	3	5	10	12	—	—
December ...	—	6	3	5	8	5	1	3
Totals ...	14	35	50	35	57	113	24	37

MONTH.	Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.).	Average Thermo- meter (Min.).	RAINFALL.	No. of DAYS ON WHICH WIND FELL.
January ...	29.98	12	32	1.38	18
February ...	29.47	46	36	3.73	19
March ...	29.86	48	34	.17	6
April ...	29.38	53	40	3.23	21
May ...	29.67	58	42	1.94	13
June ...	29.57	71	52	1.84	19
July ...	29.70	76	54	1.37	8
August ...	29.62	73	51	2.22	8
September ...	29.61	65	48	3.11	20
October ...	29.57	55	41	3.13	16
November ...	29.45	48	38	5.08	25
December ...	29.46	40	32	3.41	21
Averages & Totals for the Year	29.61	56	42	30.61	194

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Population (estimated 1935)	...	...	...	...	46,650
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	8,172
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1935) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	12,050
Average Number of Persons per House (1921)	...	...	...	...	4·6
Average Number of Persons per House (1935)	..	...	...	...	3·9
Area	...	...	...	...	5,972 acres
Density	...	...	...	...	7·8 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate	...	...	per 1,000 population	...	14·0
Annual Death Rate	...	...	„	„	10·3
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	„	„	·88
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	„	„	„	„	·11
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	39·7
Live Births ...	{	Males, 337	}	...	...
		Females, 318		...	...
				...	655
Deaths ...	{	Males, 232	}	...	...
		Females, 248		...	...
				...	480
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	..	...	...	175

Elevation.—The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.

